

**AMENDMENTS:**

**In the Specification:**

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On page 1 of the Specification, following the title, please insert the following heading and paragraph:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

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[0001] This application is related to and claims priority to United Kingdom of Great Britain Patent Application Serial No. GB 0306855.8, filed March 25, 2003, inventors Kevin Baughan, Constantinos Christofi Constantinou, Alexander Sergeevich Stepanenko, and Theodoros Arvanitis, entitled “Data Communication Network”, which is commonly assigned herewith, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, and with priority claimed for all commonly disclosed subject matter, and further is related and claims priority to PCT International Patent Application Serial PCT/EP2004/050195, filed February 24, 2004, inventors Kevin Baughan, Constantinos Christofi Constantinou, Alexander Sergeevich Stepanenko, and Theodoros Arvanitis, entitled “Topology Aggregation For Hierarchical Routing”, which is commonly assigned herewith, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, and with priority claimed for all commonly disclosed subject matter.